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# REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES**

(covering its work during 1993)

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CHAPTERS III AND IV

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** This document contains chapters III and IV of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. The general introductory chapter will be issued under the symbol A/48/23 (Part I). Other chapters of the report will be issued under the symbol A/48/23 (Parts III to VIII). The complete report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/48/23).

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## CHAPTER III

## DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION

### A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1412th meeting, on 10 February 1993, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1794), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to maintain its Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance and allocated to it certain specific items for its consideration. The Committee further decided to consider the question of the dissemination of information on decolonization, as appropriate, at its plenary and Subcommittee meetings.

2. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1416th, 1417th and 1421st meetings, held between 8 and 14 July 1993.

3. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions including, in particular, resolution 47/24 of 25 November 1992 concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, and resolution 47/23 of the same date, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Committee also considered Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990 relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration.

4. At the 1416th meeting, on 8 July, the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, in a statement to the Special Committee (A/AC.109/PV.1416), introduced the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.109/L.1797), which related to consultations with the representatives of the Department of Public Information and of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, and to the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights (24-28 May 1993).

5. At the 1417th meeting, on 12 July, the Chairman made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1417).

6. At its 1421st meeting, on 14 July, following a statement by the representative of Mali, the Special Committee adopted the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.109/L.1797) and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein (see paras. 7 and 9).

### B. Decision of the Special Committee

#### Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights

7. The report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance (A/AC.109/L.1797), adopted by the Special Committee at its 1421st meeting, on 14 July 1993 (see para. 6), contained the following conclusions and recommendations, on the basis of which a number of activities were undertaken during and in the framework of the Week:

(a) A public screening of films produced in English, French and Spanish should be held;

(b) Articles in the Department of Public Information publications, the UN Chronicle and Objective: Justice (1993 edition), should feature the activities of the Week;

(c) The Department of Public Information, in addition to short items in news and current affairs magazines, should produce special feature radio programmes on the Week;

(d) The United Nations information centres and information services world wide should undertake activities which would reflect the current situation and expectations with regard to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(e) The statement of the Chairman of the Special Committee on the activities of the Week should be issued as a press release;

(f) Information packages containing United Nations publications on decolonization issues should be distributed to the media and the non-governmental organizations.

8. In accordance with the above decision (see para. 7 (e)), the Chairman of the Special Committee issued on 28 May the following statement in commemoration of the Week of Solidarity:

Statement issued by the Chairman on 28 May 1993
on the Week of Solidarity

"In 1972, the General Assembly, in its resolution 2911 (XXVII) addressed an appeal to the Governments and peoples of the world to hold annually a Week of Solidarity with the Colonial Peoples in southern Africa. This Week was to start on 25 May, which marks Africa Liberation Day. At that time, a large part of southern Africa was under colonial rule.

"In November 1982, the General Assembly expanded the scope of the Week of Solidarity to include its support for the peoples of all other dependent Territories, as well as those in South Africa fighting for self-determination and independence and for basic human rights.

"During the past 20 years, some 30 million men and women of Africa have achieved their freedom from colonial rule; no fewer than 25 colonial Territories world wide have acceded to independence, many of them becoming members of the world Organization. The achievements scored by the peoples concerned demonstrate the fact that neither force nor violence could stem the rising tide of national consciousness, nor could they continue to deprive the peoples concerned of their inalienable right to justice and human dignity.

"Last year there were great hopes that a peaceful settlement to the problems besetting South Africa could soon be reached. It is with regret that I note that this has not eventuated and there has been grave international concern about South Africa's future. The recent events have indicated that, the path to a non-racial democracy in South Africa is strewn with many difficulties.

"Notwithstanding setbacks, the process of negotiated change is still continuing in South Africa. It is the fervent hope of the international community that the negotiation will lead soon to the peaceful emergence of a new society in which South Africans of all races can live together in harmony as equal citizens of a non-racial democracy. However, the

eradication of apartheid will require fortitude, tolerance and perseverance on the part of all political leaders during the difficult period ahead.

"Today, as we observe the Week of Solidarity for the twentieth consecutive year, and on the eve of the thirtieth anniversary of the creation of the Organization of African Unity, the world community should rededicate itself to the full attainment of the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles embodied in the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and pledge its unqualified support for the effective observance of the basic principles of freedom and dignity of all Territories, as well as those in South Africa, fighting for freedom, independence and human rights.

"On behalf of the Special Committee, I wish to urge all Member States to take whatever measures necessary for mobilizing the maximum possible support for the peoples of South Africa and the dependent peoples throughout the world, by effecting the widest possible dissemination of information on their just cause and the rights and the plight they endure.

"I wish to appeal to all Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations, to lend maximum support to the peoples of South Africa and the dependent peoples elsewhere, in order to enable them to exercise their inalienable rights to self-determination and independence without further delay."

## C. Other decisions of the Special Committee

9. The report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance (A/AC.109/L.1797), adopted by the Special Committee at its 1421st meeting, on 14 July 1993 (see para. 6), contained the following conclusions and recommendations:

(1) The Special Committee reiterates the importance of effecting the widest possible dissemination of accurate information on decolonization to further the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960) and to mobilize world public opinion in support of the peoples of colonial Territories in their efforts to achieve self-determination, freedom and independence.

(2) The Special Committee reiterates the great importance it attaches to the work of the Department of Political Affairs. The Committee urges the Department to continue to discharge its mandate, taking into account all the Territories under the consideration of the Committee.

(3) While noting the active participation of the Department of Public Information in the work of the Committee and its efforts to produce and disseminate information on decolonization, to monitor the responses received from the United Nations information centres and to report thereon, the Special Committee requests the Department:

(a) To continue to intensify, through all the means at its disposal, its work of publicity in the field of decolonization, basing its activities in this regard on the Charter; the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration, contained in the annex to General

Assembly resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980; the items on the agenda of the Special Committee; and all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and of other organs of the United Nations active in the field of decolonization;

(b) To underline in all its activities that, despite major achievements in the process of decolonization, colonialism has not been completely eradicated and that the activities of the United Nations in this field should be given high priority until all of the goals of the Declaration have been achieved;

(c) To continue to disseminate information on all remaining colonial Territories under the consideration of the Special Committee, including information on military bases or facilities in any of those Territories;

(d) To disseminate more widely, particularly through parliamentary bodies, non-governmental organizations, mass media and universities, decolonization resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including those adopted by the Special Committee, as well as other basic materials concerning decolonization and to distribute them, especially through United Nations information centres, in local languages when appropriate, in particular in those regions where there are still Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in countries that are administering Powers;

(e) To disseminate, or continue to disseminate, information in official languages of the United Nations, particularly in French, which is one of the two working languages of the Organization;

(f) To pursue its cooperation with the Pool of Non-Aligned News Agencies and to provide it on a regular basis with varied publicity material and information concerning United Nations activities in the field of decolonization;

(g) To continue to disseminate materials prepared by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries concerning decolonization;

(h) To adopt measures aimed at providing full coverage of all activities of relevant United Nations bodies in the field of decolonization in press releases in both English and French;

(i) To continue to provide information material on decolonization through, inter alia, exhibitions to be shown outside United Nations Headquarters, to all United Nations information centres and to increase assistance to them in all related activities;

(j) To produce new visual material on problems of decolonization in cooperation with the Special Committee;

(k) To utilize materials pertaining to the participation of specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the decolonization process, and to distribute those materials, as appropriate, through the United Nations information centres.

(4) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information to provide it with feedback reports from the United Nations information centres regarding their dissemination of information on decolonization and, in particular, on the activities undertaken in 1993 in relation to the celebration of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of

All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights.

(5) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to ensure that information bodies provide better coverage of decolonization in all regions.

(6) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Department of Political Affairs, to increase its speaking engagements at university campuses on the subject of decolonization and to inform the Subcommittee on the experience and the results achieved.

(7) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs to continue to take into consideration the important role being played by non-governmental organizations in the decolonization process and in the dissemination of information on the situation in all the remaining colonial Territories under consideration of the Committee. The Committee requests the two Departments to continue to intensify their cooperation with non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization, particularly through briefings and the provision of relevant printed materials.

(8) The Special Committee appeals to the mass media to regard it as their task to contribute to the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism by disseminating information on the decolonization issues and to provide support to the peoples of the colonial countries.

10. The Special Committee also took decisions during the year relating to publicity in connection with other items on its agenda as follows:

(a) In a resolution concerning foreign economic activities in colonial countries, adopted at its 1428th meeting, on 12 August 1993 (see A/AC.109/1176 and A/48/23 (Part III), chap. V), the Special Committee, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of those activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Special Committee also appealed to mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and in the struggle against apartheid.

(b) In a decision on military activities in colonial Territories, adopted at its 1428th meeting, on 12 August 1993 (see A/AC.109/1177 and Corr.1 and A/48/23 (Part III), chap. VI), the Special Committee requested the Secretary-General to continue to inform world public opinion of those military activities and arrangements in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories which constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

# CHAPTER IV

## QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES

### A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1412th meeting, on 10 February 1993, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1794), the Special Committee decided to take up the question of sending visiting missions to Territories as appropriate. The Committee further decided that the item should be considered at its plenary meetings and, as appropriate, by its Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, in connection with its examination of specific Territories.

2. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1417th meeting, on 12 July 1993.

3. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions including, in particular, those provisions relating to the question contained in resolution 47/23 of 25 November 1992 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and resolution 47/27 of 25 November 1992 and Assembly decision 47/413 of the same date relating to specific Territories. The Committee also considered Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990 relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration.

4. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it the report of the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1801) on his consultations with representatives of the administering Powers, undertaken in accordance with paragraph 4 of the resolution adopted by the Committee at its 1407th meeting, on 28 July 1992. 1/ In his report, the Chairman stated, inter alia, that he had appealed to the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations for the sending of such missions. It had been the understanding of the Special Committee, from the exchange of views that took place at its regional seminars held in 1990, 1992 and 1993, 2/ that some territorial Governments had expressed their willingness to receive United Nations visiting missions.

5. The Chairman said that he had informed his interlocutors that the Special Committee continued to attach the utmost importance to the cooperation of the administering Powers. Their full cooperation was indispensable for the successful implementation of the Plan of Action approved by the General Assembly for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. He had taken that opportunity to express his appreciation to the administering Powers concerned for their cooperation in facilitating the participation of a number of representatives from Non-Self-Governing Territories in the two seminars that the Committee had organized within the context of that International Decade.

6. The Chairman stated that he had drawn the attention of the representatives of the administering Powers to the efforts that the Special Committee continued to deploy in order to improve its efficiency and methods of work in fulfilling its mandate. He had pointed out that a number of the measures initiated by the Committee in that regard had taken into account the concerns expressed by some administering Powers and, therefore, should contribute to the restoration of a climate of cooperation between them and the Committee.

7. As in previous years, the administering Powers consulted had reiterated their willingness to continue to provide all necessary information on the

Territories under their administration in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations. With regard to the dispatch of visiting missions, however, the same willingness had not been displayed and it appeared that in most cases, further efforts by the Special Committee would be required before the full cooperation of the administering Powers concerned could be restored.

8. In this connection, the Chairman reported that the representative of one of the administering Powers had stated that, with the end of the cold war, many changes had taken place in the world and he had expressed the hope that some of those changes would be reflected in the work of the Special Committee. The representative had also said that references to certain issues in the resolutions of the Committee which, in his view were not within the purview of the Committee, were not constructive and did not contribute to the Committee's effective performance. The representative considered that the Committee, in rationalizing its work, should make every effort to respond to his Government's concerns, thereby paving the way for closer cooperation and participation by that administering Power in the work of the Committee. The representative had reiterated his Government's total commitment to the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories. On the question of visiting missions to Territories under its administration, the representative had stated that his Government would continue to work with the Committee in resolving that question.

9. During its consideration of this question, the Special Committee took into account the conclusions and recommendations it had adopted at its 1414th meeting, on 28 May (A/AC.109/L.1795); see also A/48/23 (Part I), chapter I, paragraphs 32-38.

10. At the 1417th meeting, on 12 July, the Chairman drew attention to a letter dated 20 May 1993 addressed to him by the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations (A/AC.109/1162) who, on behalf of his Government and the General Fono (Council) of Tokelau, extended an invitation to the Committee to send a visiting mission to Tokelau during the first half of 1994.

11. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided to accept the invitation with appreciation and authorized the Chairman to hold the necessary consultations with the administering Power with a view to dispatching the visiting mission to Tokelau in early 1994.

12. Also, at the 1417th meeting, the Chairman drew attention to his report on the question (A/AC.109/L.1801) as well as a related draft resolution prepared by him (A/AC.109/L.1802).

13. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the draft resolution (A/AC.109/L.1802) without objection (see para. 17).

14. On 19 July, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/1166) was transmitted to the representatives of the administering Powers concerned for the attention of their respective Governments.

15. In addition to the consideration of this item at the plenary meetings of the Special Committee, as described below, the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance in considering the specific Territories referred to it, took into account the relevant provisions of the General Assembly resolutions and decisions mentioned in paragraph 3, as well as previous decisions of the Committee relating to the question.

16. By approving the relevant reports of that Subcommittee, the Special Committee endorsed a number of conclusions and recommendations concerning the sending of visiting missions to Territories, as reflected in chapter X of the present report (A/48/23 (Part VI)), relating to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the United States Virgin Islands and St. Helena.

## B. Decision of the Special Committee

17. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/1166), adopted by the Special Committee at its 1417th meeting, on 12 July 1993, to which reference is made in paragraph 13, is reproduced below:

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Having examined the report of the Chairman on the question, 3/

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

Taking note with appreciation of the invitation extended to the Special Committee by the Government of New Zealand to send a visiting mission to Tokelau in 1994, 4/

Noting with regret that some administering Powers do not participate in the work of the Special Committee,

1. Stresses the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

2. Calls upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

3. Continues to call upon those administering Powers that are not participating in the work of the Special Committee to reconsider their decisions and to take an active part in the work of the Committee;

4. Requests its Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate.

## Notes

1/ See A/47/23 (Part II), chap. IV, para. 17. The complete report is to be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/47/23).

2/ Regional seminars held in Vanuatu (A/AC.109/1040 and Corr.1) and Barbados (A/AC.109/1043) in 1990; in Grenada (A/AC.109/1114) in 1992; and in Papua New Guinea (A/AC.109/1159) in 1993. The first two were held in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; the last two were held within the context of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

3/ A/AC.109/L.1801.

4/ A/AC.109/1162.

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